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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/926,622	02/20/2002	Paul Paquin	216324US0PCT	1127
22850	7590	11/22/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			BECKER, DREW E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1761	

DATE MAILED: 11/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/926,622

Applicant(s)

PAQUIN ET AL.

Examiner

Drew E Becker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. The request filed on October 6, 2004 for an RCE based on parent Application No. 09/926,622 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 8-23 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,511,695. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to collect the treated product at the end of the process.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 17 recites "for a time period in the order of milliseconds", claim 14 recites "25°C to 60°C", claim 15 recites "45°C to 55°C", claim 16 recites "100 MPa to 300 MPa", claim 18 recites "a period of about 183 milliseconds". Although the specification discloses individual points within these ranges, it does not appear to disclose these concepts and ranges.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
8. Claim 17 recites "for a time period in the order of milliseconds". It is not clear what number of milliseconds would satisfy this limitation. 5 milliseconds? 500 milliseconds? 5,000 milliseconds?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

9. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

10. Claims 8-10, 12-13, 16, 19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 3903648A.

DE 3903648A teaches a process for reducing bacteria by pressurizing a liquid food (page 4, lines 4-10, Figure 1, #3), passing the liquid food through a homogenizing valve for 20 minutes (page 6, claims 5 & 8; Figure 1, #6), collecting the liquid food (Figure 1, #1), the pressure being 50-150 MPa (page 6, claim 4), the microorganisms including viruses and bacteriophages (page 4, lines 4-8), the liquid being milk and water (page 4, lines 4-10), and the liquid inherently passing through homogenizer at least five momentary times during the course of 20 minutes of processing (page 6, claim 8).

11. Claims 8, 10, 12-13, 19-20, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by SU 1666021A.

SU 1666021A teaches a process for reducing bacteria by pressurizing a liquid food (page 2, line 21), repeatedly passing the liquid food through a homogenizing valve

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(Figure 1; page 2, line 25), inherently collecting the liquid food, the microorganisms including pathogenic flora (page 2, line 25), and the liquid being milk and juice (page 1, line 1).

12. Claims 8-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Paquin et al [Pat. No. 6,511,695].

Paquin et al teach a process for treating liquid food by pressurizing it to 500-5000 bar (column 4, line 3), passing the liquid food through a homogenizer up to 50 times (column 3, line 43), time periods of 1 millisecond to 10 minutes (column 3, line 51) which would have equated to a flow rate of about 160 L/hr, collecting the liquid food (column 4, lines 46-51), the process inherently reducing microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses as well as , the liquid being milk (column 3, line 56), and temperatures of 20-80°C (column 3, line 47).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

13. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

14. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 3903648A in view of Quinet [Pat. No. 5,114,733].

DE 3903648A teaches the above mentioned concepts. DE 3903648A does not recite pasteurizing liquid fat and oil. Quinet teaches a method of pressure pasteurizing

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solutions of liquid fat and oil (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the liquid fat and oil of Quinet into the invention of DE 3903648A since both are directed to methods of pressure pasteurization, since DE 3903648A already included pressure pasteurizing other liquid foods like milk (page 4, lines 4-10), which commonly contained fats and oils, and since liquid fats and oils were commonly pasteurized as shown by Quinet (abstract).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed October 6, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that "order of milliseconds" was inherently supported. However, applicant needs to point out actual support in the specification.

Applicant argues that DE 3903648A used a static homogenizer, rather than a dynamic homogenizer. However, the term "dynamic" in the claim refers to the dynamically flowing fluid. Therefore, the broadest reasonable interpretation of the term "dynamic" would include any homogenizer which acts on a moving fluid, for instance the homogenizers of DE 3903648A and SU 1666021A.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the structure of the homogenizer) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification

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are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant argues that Paquin et al does not recite reducing the number of bacteria. However, the method steps utilized in the reference are the same as those instantly claimed, and thus one of ordinary skill in the art would have expected the same results. The claimed characteristic of reducing bacteria is considered an inherent property and result of the referenced method, and not unique to the instant invention, absent any clear and convincing evidence or arguments to the contrary.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Drew E Becker whose telephone number is 571-272-1396. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thur. 8am-5pm and every other Fri. 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Drew E Becker
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761

Drew Becker
DREW BECKER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11-18-04